

Errick D. Simmons
Mayor



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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Greenville Declares Local Emergency Caused by COVID-19

In an effort to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Mayor Simmons and City Council have declared a local emergency and have put in place protective preventive measures for the safety of city employees, residents, and visitors. The preventative measures below follow the President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, the Center for Disease Control, and the Mississippi State Department of Health guidelines. These preventive measures are subject to change based on changes to federal and state guidelines.

- The City of Greenville has cancelled any and all public meetings, zoning or code enforcement meetings, committee meetings, activities, gatherings, and events where over 10 people will be present;
- It is recommended that any and all private events and gatherings (i.e. bars, clubs, restaurants, etc.) where over 10 people will be present should be cancelled and/or postponed.
- Anyone 65 years or older, or anyone with severe medical conditions, should not be in or near crowds of over 10 people.
- Precautions at gatherings should include proper hand hygiene, social distancing, and enhanced ventilation.
- Do not visit a place where the virus is verified to be present and do not go into crowds and practice social distancing.
- Do not visit a hospital or emergency room if you believe you have contracted COVID-19. Call ahead before visiting any clinic or hospital for specific testing and visiting directions.

- All City of Greenville’s personnel should take proper precautions when making contact with the public.
- City of Greenville’s recreational centers and facilities including all events at Buster Brown Community Center will be closed and cancelled until further notice. The Buster Brown Administrative Office, the Greenville Municipal Golf Course, and all parks will remain open. However, parks restrooms will not be available for usage.
- Greenville's Fire Department has cancelled, facility tours, and safety presentations. There has been a suspension of the smoking alarm program, going into homes installing smoke alarms, and a suspension of business inspections from the Fire Marshall's office. Greenville's Fire Department has cancelled, facility tours, and safety presentations. There has been a suspension of the smoking alarm program, going into homes installing smoke alarms, and a suspension of business inspections from the Fire Marshall's office.
- The City of Greenville is suspending water disconnections for the next 60 days.
- The City of Greenville is suspending all city-funded, employee travel unless deemed necessary by the Mayor and City Council.
- The City of Greenville is requesting that the public not attend City Council Meetings unless you are on the agenda for a presentation however the 10 people rule applies. All City Council Meetings may be viewed on the public access channel on Channel 12.
- All City-owned buildings, including City Hall, will be regularly sanitized, checked for sufficient amounts of soap and /or hand sanitizer, and paper towels at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 5:30 p.m.
- It is strongly encouraged that people who have recently traveled self-quarantined for fourteen (14) days.
- For further protective recommendations, please visit www.msdh.ms.gov or call 1-877-978-6453.
- These preventive measures are subject to change in accordance to state and federal mandates, guidelines, and applicable law.

Statement of Mayor Simmons

Although the City of Greenville does not have a Coronavirus case, I know Greenvillians are concerned about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). I applaud the proactive leadership of Delta Regional Medical Center and

it is this leadership that will be the consistent voice to assist in our response and mitigation for our community. It is important to adhere to the CDC Community Mitigation Strategies, including staying at home when you are sick, create a household plan of action in case of illness, handwashing, hand sanitizing, respiratory etiquette, and clean frequently touched surfaces daily.

However, people who are elderly or have compromised immune systems should routinely consider the risk associated with attending large gatherings and make a decision on whether they should attend. Out of an abundance of caution, I encourage people who recently traveled internationally to self-quarantine for 14 days. Also, if you have traveled or plan to travel internationally, I advise you to wait two weeks before visiting nursing homes or senior living facilities, the elderly, and infants, as an added precaution. And, people who are sick need to always stay home to prevent infecting others.

All of us must continue to practice routine healthy hygiene habits to help prevent the spread of any disease and respiratory illnesses like COVID-19, such as washing hands frequently, covering coughs and sneezes, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, and staying home if sick. If the situation changes, community-based interventions such as event cancellations and social distancing may be needed. I will support the decisions of local public health officials, in conjunction with our hospital, state and federal officials, based on the scope and severity of any situation.

We will continue to promptly update the public with developments, and I encourage Greenvillians to contact Coronavirus Hotline at 662-725-6000.

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